

Docket No. RD-28435-2

Appl. Serial No. 09/681,304
Amdt. Dated March 26, 2004
Reply to Office action of January 12, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 19 remain pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 16 have been rejected, and claims 2 and 19 has been objected to. For the sole purpose of furthering the prosecution of this application, and without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter recited therein, applicants cancel claims 8 and 16 and amend claims 1, 7 and 19. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based upon the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

The specification has been amended to correct a few typographical errors and omissions of element numbers. No new matter has been added through this amendment.

Claim 2 has been objected to for including the phrase "the cover" without sufficient antecedent basis. Claim 2 has been amended to recite "a cover", thereby obviating the objection.

Claims 1-4 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the combination of Gorowitz et al. and Noddin. Claim 16 has been canceled, thus rendering this rejection moot as to that claim. Claim 1 has been amended.

Claim 1 recites a method for packaging a microelectromechanical system (MEMS) device that includes, among other features, "providing a cavity having a smooth surface perimeter and extending through the release sheet and at least partially through the MEMS package flexible layer" and "removing the release sheet, wherein said providing the cavity comprises, prior to removing the release sheet, providing a hermetic coating in the cavity". Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1.

Neither Gorowitz et al. nor Noddin teach or suggest the provision of a hermetic coating in a cavity prior to removing a release sheet as recited in claim 1. Furthermore, the examiner has indicated that claim 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and including all the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. A feature in claim 19 that distinguishes that claim from the cited references, namely "prior to removing the release sheet, providing a

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hermetic coating in the cavity" has been added to claim 1. Applicants submit that claims 1-4 are patentable over the cited references.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Gorowitz et al. in view of Noddin and further in view of Arai et al. Claim 6 depends from claim 1.

As argued above, neither Gorowitz et al. nor Noddin teach or suggest "prior to removing the release sheet, providing a hermetic coating in the cavity" as recited in claim 1. Arai et al. is relied upon for its disclosure of a semiconductor device that includes an adhesive with a mixture of photopolymerizable and epoxy materials. Arai et al. provides no relevant teaching or suggestion regarding the feature "prior to removing the release sheet, providing a hermetic coating in the cavity" recited in claim 1. Applicants submit that claim 6, along with claims 1-4, is patentable over the cited references.

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Gorowitz et al. in view of Noddin and further in view of Scherer. Claim 8 has been canceled, thus rendering moot the rejection as to that claim. Claim 7 has been amended.

Claim 7 recites a method for packaging a microelectromechanical system (MEMS) device that includes, among other features, "providing a cavity extending through the release sheet and partially through the MEMS package flexible layer", "providing a protective coating in the cavity", and "then removing the release sheet, wherein said providing a protective coating comprises, prior to removing the release sheet, providing a hermetic coating in the cavity".

As argued above, neither Gorowitz et al. nor Noddin teach or suggest "prior to removing the release sheet, providing a hermetic coating in the cavity" as recited in claim 7. Scherer is related to a microcircuit package and sealing method which includes spraying a non-organic coating over the cavity and surrounding continuous perimeter sealing surface to form a hermetic seal. Scherer fails to teach or suggest providing a hermetic coating in the cavity, instead positioning the hermetic coating outside the cavity. Further, Scherer fails to teach or suggest that the hermetic coating is provided prior to the removal of a release sheet. Applicants submit that claim 7 is patentable over the cited references.

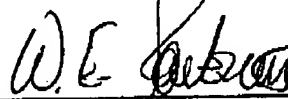
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Claim 19 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 19 to be in independent form and to include all the limitations of the base claim 16, there being no intervening claims.

In light of the amendments and remarks presented herein, applicants submits that the application is in condition for immediate allowance and respectfully requests the application be passed on to issuance. If, however, any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's counsel at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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